

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 3, 5 and 7-10. Claim 7 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 4. Accordingly, claim 4 has been canceled. In addition, claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 10. Accordingly, claim 2 has been canceled and claim 3, which previously depended on claim 2, has been amended to depend on new claim 10. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 99/26506 (U.S. Patent No. 6,450,931 to Frey). The Examiner however, did not made any prior art rejection of claims 2-5 and 9.

In response, without conceding the propriety of the rejections, and in order to expedite prosecution of this case, Applicant has amended claim 7 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 4, has rewritten claim 2 as new claim 10, has amended claim 3 to depend on claim 10, and has canceled claims 2 and 4 so that all currently pending claims depend directly or indirectly on claim 7 as amended to incorporate claim 4 or new claim 10. It is believed that this amendment obviates the Examiner's rejection of claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by

Frey. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all claims, namely claims 7 and 10, and dependent claims 3, 5 and 8-9, are now in condition for allowance.

In summary, claims 3 and 7 has been amended, claim 4 has been canceled, and new claim 10 has been added. In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the final action and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: Copy of Petition for two-month extension of time.

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

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